

Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 NEAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 /072 W

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P R 201032Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9209

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

USIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 5539

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE

SUBJECT: AUG 20 SYRIAN PRESS REPORTS PROPOSAL FOR ARAB SUMMIT
TO SETTLE LEBANESE CRISIS

1. PRESS REPORTED APPEAL BY AL SEC GEN RIAD FOR CONVOCATION
OF ARAB SUMMIT TO SETTLE LEBANESE CRISIS. ARTICLE NOTED THAT
SUMMIT WOULD BE HELD AT AL HEADQUARTERS IN CAIRO IF NO
STATE OFFERED TO HOST CONFERENCE. STATES REPORTEDLY SUPPORT-
ING SUMMIT LISTED IN PRESS AS SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT, UAE,
QATAR, SOUTH YEMEN AS WELL AS PLO. (COMMENT: DAMASCUS MEDIA
OBVIOUSLY AWAITING PRESIDENT'S RETURN FROM COLOMBO FOR
GUIDANCE ON SYRIAN ATTITUDE TOWARDS SUMMIT.)

2. PRESS CITED SANA RELEASE FROM KUWAIT REPORTING THAT
SAUDI PRINCE FAHD WILL SOON HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE TO
ANNOUNCED SAUDI POSITION ON NUMBER OF ARAB ISSUES, PARTICULARLY
LEBANESE CRISIS. ACCORDING TO SANA, SOURCES SUGGEST
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FAHD WILL DECLARE CATEGORIC REJECTION OF LEBANESE PARTITION,

STRESS NECESSITY TO IMPLMENET DAMASCUS ACCORD AND
OUTLINE SAUDI WILLINGNESS TO HELP RECONSTRUCT LEBANESE
ONCE ORDER RESTORED.

3. PRESS CITED KUWAITI PRESS SPECULATION THAT CONFERENCE
OF ARAB FONMINS MAY BE HELD IN NEAR FUTURE.

4. PAPERS REFERRED TO NEWS AGENCY DISPATCHES ON CONTINUA-
TION OF VIOLENT FIGHTING IN LEBANON PREVIOUS DAY, INCLUDING
SHELLING OF RESIDENTIAL AREAS OF BEIRUT. CONTACTS TO
CONSOLIDATE CEASEFIRE AND REACH NEW PEACE ACCORD REPORTEDLY
INTENSIFIED UNDER AEGIS OF ASF COMMANDER. PRESS CLAIMED
THAT AGREEMENT REACHED FOR STATIONING OF ASF FORCES IN
BUFFER ZONES ONCE RANDOM SHELLING STOPPED.

5. MORNING DAMASCUS RADIO COMMENTARY ATTACKED JUMBLATT'S
"THIRST FOR MORE LEBANESE AND PALESTINIAN BLOOD." BROAD-
CAST ASSERTED THAT HIS THREAT TO FIGHT FOR SIX MORE
MONTHS EXPLAINED BY HIS NEED TO AWAIT "ORDERS FROM HIS
MASTERS, THE AMERICANS, WHICH HE EXPECTS TO RECEIVE AFTER
AMERICAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS." AL-BAATH COLUMNIST DEPLORED
DESIRE ON PART OF SOME LEBANESE--PRESUMABLY JUMBLATT--FOR
MILITARY VICTORY DESPITE PREVIOUS DEVASTATION OF BEIRUT
AND LARGE NUMBERS OF THOSE ALREADY KILLED AND WOUNDED.
TISHRIIN WRITER MAINTAINED THAT SADAT'S POLICY AMOUNTED
TO PLOT AGAINST NON-ALIGNMENT IN ME.
MURPHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, SUMMIT MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DAMASC05539
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760319-1041
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760835/aaaabeao.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 AUG 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 AUG 2004 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <06 DEC 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUG 20 SYRIAN PRESS REPORTS PROPOSAL FOR ARAB SUMMIT TO SETTLE LEBANESE CRISIS
TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE, XF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006